ASL

Australian Society
for Limnology Inc.

NEWSLETTER and MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC.

The Australian Society for Limnology (ASL) is an Australian-based scientific society whose focus is the study and management of inland waters. The ASL was established in 1961, and has a current membership of over 500 researchers, managers, engineers, teachers and tertiary level students from all states and territories. Members have a strong professional interest in inland aquatic issues, including the maintenance of biodiversity, the maintenance and/or restoration of water quality, and the wise use of aquatic resources. The Society also has a strong interest in fostering the scientific and intellectual development of tertiary students.

The Society includes members working in government agencies, tertiary institutions and many industries related to aquatic resources. Through their daily activities, members have contact with local communities and are in a sound position to interpret and advise on inland water issues. The Society has a substantial knowledge base, and has assumed a responsibility to ensure that this is available to those who manage inland waters.

Accordingly, the charter of the ASL is to further our understanding of Australia's inland waters and to promote their wise use and sustainable management. In this manner we will contribute to the continued existence of this valued resource and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for all Australians.

The ASL regularly produces a newsletter with notes on limnological activities, articles of interest, book reviews and announcements of upcoming events likely to be of interest to Members.

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Membership Information and a list of the Regional Executive Officers can be found at the back of this Newsletter

CONTENTS

Contents 3
Editorial 4
President's Report 5
Klardage, Scamour, Pratsch and Bavuttle. 7
Fasts Stuff 13
2b or not 2b ASL, or maybe just ASS 22
A Postcard Ffrom The Free Market 32
Announcements 34
Articles 37
A quick guide to free access to the ASL newsgroup 46
Conference Capers 48
I've been to 49
Book review 54
Bibliography 56
The XX Word 57
ASL Volunteers 59
ASL Membership form 61
Regional Executive Members 1998-99 63
Editorial Address 63

Material for publication in the Volume 37 #2 Issue of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor (see back pages) by 31 May 1999

Long articles should be forwarded as unformatted text on a disk or via email.

ASL Ho□e Page

http://www.ntu.edu.au/science/mdouglas/asl_home.html

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EDITORIAL

Well, here we are again (we should stop meeting like this!). Nothing has happened much in limnology in the last three months, given the amount of gossip. Probably something to do with post Christmas/new year languor. Well I have recovered but I am not sure about the remainder of the limnological community. It is possible that they never recover, is this a press or pulse disturbance and how resilient is the populace?

This issue sees the new membership list, yes you can see your name in print or maybe contact friends (maybe relatives) who you may have lost all knowledge of!

There is a quite healthy debate about profile/name issues reprinted from a discussion from the ASL news group. There are frequent messages to join the ASL newsgroup and even instructions of how to do it (join the newsgroup that is).

Besides all that, the rest trundles along

Trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle, trundle.

LOL (that's email or chat for either lots of laughs, laughs out loud, or lots of love depending on your audience)

the ED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Communicating, and the Society's Profile

At the time of writing there is a relatively vigorous debate on the value of the term "limnology": whether it accurately encompasses our activities, and whether it is sufficiently well known to the broader community to describe our activities (and whether this matters). This debate is occurring on ASL's listserver, the email forum for discussion provided for our members, and for anyone else wishing to engage in (albeit electronic) inland aquatic issues in Australia. I mention this here not to have my say on the question, but rather to highlight the value of such debates, and to urge all members not yet registered on the listserver to do so. Instructions for you to register are given in this issue, encourage your colleagues to register as well!

To the executive of ASL the listserver is a powerful forum for gauging the opinions of the membership. An active listserver is particularly appropriate for a scientific society like ours given the continental scale of the membership, and the fact that inland aquatic issues arise at a pace which is often quicker than our traditionally successful methods of communicating (like the newsletter, other publications, and annual congresses).

More than that, the forum allows us to rapidly engage in the idiosyncrasies of each other's science. A healthy scientific society can be identified by vigorous internal debate and exchange of information, where careful consideration is given to a range of viewpoints. Communication is essential to our activities, and the way we communicate is critical. In keeping with the fine ASL tradition, we should ensure that we participate in electronic discussion by treating everyone as equals, and by continuing to avoid ridicule (recognising that participating to some may require a hurdle into a space apparently occupied by intimidating experts). In short, our "profile" will be judged by the degree to which we allow for participation, the degree to which we promote and debate issues which are of interest to us, and the degree to which we agree, or agree to disagree, on such issues.

Another form of latter day technology likely to significantly influence the functioning of ASL in the future is the internet web site, or home page. Our web site will be the world's window to the Society, where any global citizen with access to the internet can look into our credentials and be inspired by our activities. Eventually, the electronic pundits are telling us, the web site will be the first port of call, and a one-stop-shop. Congress registrations, membership applications, key contacts, policy documents, bibliographies, key papers/publications, minutes of meetings etc. will eventually be accessible electronically through this medium. We are taking significant steps in this regard, and when our new web site is established we will ensure all members know about it.

This leads me to the inevitable question on the value of a third platform of regular communication - the newsletter. As a Society we have debated this issue long and hard. At the last Annual General Meeting it was agreed that receipt of a tangible, informative, non-electronic (and brightly coloured!) product from the Society had significant benefits to members, and that the benefit should remain at least in the short to medium term. The frequency of issues has been discussed among the executive and will remain at one each three months for the moment. At some stage we may have to consider a changed frequency for the delivery when the newsletter is put on the web site. We aim, in the medium term, to gradually phase-in a system of either allowing members to receive hard copy, or allowing them to opt for an electronic version only.

From a management perspective these three avenues of communication will give us three important "performance indicators" for the Society. We can judge our success by the number of members and non-members registering on our listserver, and their participation rates. The number of "hits" on our web site can give us an indication of the external interest in our activities (and eventually monitor our internal administrative load). And the distribution of the newsletter in the future, and the type of material contained in the newsletter will give us an important insight into preferred lines of communication by the membership.

Whichever instrument you choose, we welcome your participation. More than that, we need it. Our profile to the external community will be built on the internal dynamics of the Society, and how we communicate.

Pierre Horwitz
President 26 February 1999

KLARDAGE, SCAMOUR, PRATSCH AND BAVUTTLE.

Due to the lack of Australia wide coverage of this section, from now on you'll just get the stuff listed by individual organisations to save any embarrassment from lack of participation from the individual States.

Queensland Department of Natural Resources – Biological Monitoring Lab.

We have had several changes in personnel in the past few months. **Senad Adams** and moved with her husband to live and work in England. The hiatus left by **Senad** has been ably filled by **Sandra Grinter**, who came to us via UNE. Our resident philanthropist, poet and court jester, **Marcus Stowar**, has also departed. He is soon to begin a PhD working on Estuarine health at UQ. Our lab will never be the same again. Chris Thomson has just started with us as **Marcus'** replacement
Since the last report sampling for the fourth round of FNARH has been completed. We bug-pickers have made good progress in the endless processing of samples. **Jon Marshall** attended the recent taxonomy workshop and has since been pestering taxonomists all over the country. **Glenn McGregor** has also been taxonomising – at the algal workshop. The recent flooding in Queensland has reduced his workload, but not his enthusiasm for monitoring blue-green algae.
Satish Choy has been busy attending conferences and workshops and writing reports. **Diane Conrick** has just finished preparing our data to send to Canberra for the development of second generation AusRivAS models. We are awaiting the return of classifications so **Satish** and **Jon** can select groups for the models. Chris Marshall, our special projects man, has recently completed a major report on the condition of the Burnett River catchment. He has now put his attention to other special projects.
We have penned a short poem to commemorate the leaving of **Marcus**:

Alas, he doth go

Marcus Stowar will never be forgotten,
Though his poems didn't scan
And his puns were often rotten.

His jokes and innuendo, helped us all to cope
With endless picking days,
Chained to the microscope.

His favourite CD, was of Schoolgirls singing hymns,
And most cherished belongings:-
Five used Peugeot rims.

If a SCSI card was faulty, with errors running rife,
Our man, he would fix it,
With his BugTec pocket knife.

He could not resist the lure, of remaindered sea-life books,
And kept us all enthralled,
With his witty tales of chooks.

At the slightest indication, fancy dress he'd don.

Hawaiian, Cus-Cus, Goodie,
Or a dress of blue chiffon.

He developed an artform which will live-on 'though he's gone.
'Tis the office chair grace,
Of his famous Dying Swan.

While Dolichopodids were once his nadir,
"It's another formless nematode",
He'll soon exclaim with cheer.

Yes, Marcus Stowar will never be forgotten.
Alas, he's leaving now,
For a much softer bottom.

University of Armidale (NSW)

Andrew Boulton has just returned to UNE after being trapped by flash floods up in the Flinders Ranges while on an amphipod-collecting trip with **Sam Wade**, **Piers Brissenden** and **Pierre Marmonier**, following the second stream management conference in Adelaide. At the conference, the French Government, ably represented by **Dr Marmonier**, supplied Australian wine to some of the delegates at a Thai restaurant - a backlash from the nuclear testing embargoes. **Pierre** is on study leave at UNE from University of Savoie, studying ostracods from north west WA, subsurface invertebrates from New Caledonia, and analysing the final hyporheic samples from a recent fieldtrip sampling thirteen river sites varying in salinity around the southwest of WA, hosted by **Jenny Davis** at Murdoch. With two other French researchers (**Cecile Claret** and **Marie-Jo Dole-Olivier**) and a hydrologist from the US EPA (**John Morrice**), **Andrew** and **Pierre** are commencing a 3-year Large ARC project exploring aspects of subsurface flow and biological filtration in several NSW gravel bed rivers.

Andrew also spent the latter part of 1998 at SIL in Ireland, sampling B&Bs in England and Scotland, meeting up with **Phil Boon** at the Scottish Natural Heritage, and sampling a range of groundwater-fed wetlands along the Rhone River funded by the University of Lyon for 2 months. Apart from the lasting aftertaste of eating sea-squirts, all was very pleasant. Meanwhile, slaving at home, **Sue Botting** has commenced the final run of sampling along the Macleay River and is using agar-pots to assess potential nutrient limitation at several of her sites. **Colleen Watts** is preparing several mss from her work on the effects of drying, S and DO on P release from sediments, and **Kim Jenkins** is also in the home stretch, wondering what to do with 300 icecream containers. **Eren Turak** forges on in his study of blackwater streams while **Rob Woods**, working on blue-green algal blooms in Armidale's water supply, waits in vain for the "big one". **Sandra Grinter** still finds time to pick some of her bug samples at home - a sort of work away from work in Brisbane.

Honours projects for 1999 include an assessment by **Jenny Moffat** of the effects of the "remediation" after sewage spills in an urban creek - it seems that pumping creeks dry to remove the sewage and then flushing the creek with town water may be quite harsh for the bugs! **Marcus Finn**, funded by the DLWC at the Macquarie Marshes is exploring the effects of weirs on invertebrates and **Paul Butcher** is assessing trap success and bag limits on mud crabs in the Wooli estuary. Other projects will be described in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Book is coming... from **Andrew Boulton**

AUSTRALIAN WATER QUALITY CENTRE (SA)

Peter Schultz, Daria Schulze and **Rob Walsh** travelled to Albury for the macroinvertebrate taxonomic workshop. Those remaining wished they were there.....maybe more prayers to the funding gods this year! Several members of the group were able to spend some time at the Stream Management conference in Adelaide. **Sam Wade** participated in a post conference trip to the Flinders Ranges with **Andrew Boulton, Pierre Marmonier** and **Piers Brissenden**, which was spent dodging thunderstorms and the subsequent runoff.

The MRH team has been busy. Processing of Autumn 1997 samples has been completed and the site list for this Autumn's sampling is compiled. This year our outback sites will be out Oodnadatta way. **Sue Nichols**, at CRCFE Canberra is applying the finishing touches to our AUSRIVAS models. Our first runs will be conducted in March. Associated projects include environmental flow studies of the Wakefield and Gawler rivers (NHT funds) and analysing relationships between land use and macroinvertebrates in the Mt Lofty Ranges (for the National Land & Water Audit). **Paul M^{c}Evoy** received funds to look at aquatic worms in SA.

Members who subscribe to the email discussion group may remember a request for advice on beetle food. Our laboratory pet/guest is a *Hydrophilus latipalpus* adult, collected by **Peter Schultz** from Naracoorte Creek. Suggestions for a name resulted in **HERCULES**, and much of its early stay was spent munching through lettuce leaves. About a month after arrival, a spherical sac was removed from the tank during clean-up. The prompt appearance of a second sac was noted, and the subsequent observation of larvae implied that a more appropriate name for the beetle was **XENA**. Her rate of food consumption has slowed, and she favours snow pea sprouts, as well as those of lentils.

Monitoring programs on several WWTPs and Catchment programs are nearing completion and data analysis is in full swing. The use of streams to conduct chlorinated water between source and storage is being monitored. Projects utilising zooplankton for monitoring have been submitted to various authorities.

from **Paul M^{c}Evoy** and **Peter Schultz**

Australian Museum (NSW)

Winston Ponder and **Stephanie Clark** have just finished a CD Rom interactive key to the freshwater and estuarine molluscs of NSW and are commencing work on an ABRS funded CD Rom interactive key and information retrieval system on the freshwater mollusc species of Australia. **Winston** and his coworkers **Stephanie Clark, Alison Miller** and **Peter Middelfart** are also in the process of finishing off revisions of the gastropod families Bithyniidae and Viviparidae, Glacidorbidae all of which now contain around 20 species, including a significant number of undescribed species. Work on hydrobiid snails is also progressing with a major revision of the genus *Austropyrgus* close to submission and work on a large undescribed fauna from Tasmanian caves in progress. **Winston** is also interested in documenting distributions of molluscs in the Murray Darling system.

George (Buz) Wilson and **Stephen Keable** (the latter of recent scavenging marine isopod fame) are forging ahead on their revision of the Phreatoicidean isopods, armed with a hunting license from ABRS. Early February found them presenting a preliminary key of the phreatoicidean genera to the Freshwater Taxonomic Workshop at Albury to a large audience (thanks **to John**

Hawking for the invite). **Steve** and **Buz** found the workshop to be valuable because information flowed in all directions - participants from Queensland had reported seeing phreatoicideans, whereas **Buz** had spent a frustrating, specimen-free month in Qld during 1998. Nothing like local knowledge, eh?

Winston Ponder and **Buz Wilson** will travel through north Kimberley WA in late April searching out endemic fresh water invertebrates, primarily hydrobiid snails and phreatoicidean isopods. Several genera have already been reported from this area so they are hopeful for success.

from
W.Ponder/G.Wilson

Deakin University, Warrnambool (VIC)

Brad Mitchell, Belinda Robson, Troy Duthie, Adam Pope, Peter Lind & Sarah Boulton headed to Adelaide recently for the Second Australian Stream Management Conference, and a good time was had by all. **Adam Pope** has just joined us from Tasmania to do a Masters project on the estuary of the Anglesea River, and is supervised by **Peter Fairweather** and **John Sherwood. David Lambert** has just started a PhD on the biogeochemistry of trace metals in Lake Purrumbete, with **Nick Turoczy** and **John Sherwood** as supervisors.

From **Belinda Robson**

AWT Environment Science and Technology (formally EnSight) (NSW)

Yes, we have had yet another name change since we last contributed to the ASL newsletter. I gather that may be fairly relevant with the proposed name change to ASL. We have also had a major change to our parent company Sydney Water Corporation (SWC) since the water contamination incident (no called the INCIDENT), SWC now has closer ties to the state minister.

Peter Cox and the environmental pathogen team have been extremely busy with the water contamination incident. They have had many overseas guests from the UK and the USA looking at issues in relation to the detection and management of Crypto and Gairdia in water supply systems, including reservoirs.

Since the incident **Peter Swanson** and team have been attempting to trace the source of much of the contamination in the catchment areas. **Merran Griffith, Katherine Korbel** and **Mike Mannile** have also been busy due the recent rainfall events triggering their water auto-samplers. This is vast contrast from the previous year where many of the waterways were not flowing.

Ivor?go with the flow? **Growns** has completed his Hawkesbury-Nepean River environmental flow and the IFIM study. Ivor has also been involved with the Healthy Rivers Commission expert panel assessment of the Woronora River.

Simon Williams and **Ivor** are doing some modelling of the bug data for the Sydney region. **Simon** is also working on yet more urban streams, primarily in northern Sydney. He is having difficulty in finding clean streams on Hawkesbury Sandstone. **Simon** along with others in the stream ecology group have also been assessing the impacts of unsewered areas on the local streams.

Colin Besley, Michel Cassidy, David Holleley and **Maria Marzella** are working on the environmental indicators program, an assessment of the urban waterways in the Sydney region. Over 50 sites will be further sampled during autumn for this program. The program will be reported in the next Sydney Water Corporation annual environment report.

John Hawking and a NATA staff member visited the macroinvertebrate laboratory in December 1998, and audited our laboratory quality procedures. Most of the stream ecology team attended the taxonomic workshop and we would also like to thank **John** for putting on yet another excellent effort in Albury. Albury beautiful one day and perfect the next. **John** and **Gunther** also completed the Odonate guide, which is an impressive piece of work.

Mick Gregory has left the Sydney office to take up a position in the Melbourne AWT office. We all wish **Mick** well in his new fishy pursuits.

Lisa Silva is still on her African tour, but we manage to get regular updates via e-mail. Finally, congratulations to **Cathy Cunningham** who had her second child **Hamish** in late December. Mother and baby are doing well.

By **Willy Williams**

Freshwater Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Heidelberg (VIC).

It has been a very busy few months in Freshwater Ecology at Parks, Flora and Fauna, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (phew!). We were the artists formerly known as MAFRI (Marine and Freshwater Resources Insitute) but you can call us Freshwater Ecology at DNRE. Relocation threats from Heidelberg (in Melbourne) to Snobs Creek have abated so we're all feeling good about remaining close to home.

There are a few new faces in the group, working in the environmental flows area is **Louise Grgat, Matthew Jones** in bug and fish projects, **Diane Crowther** in bugs and **Mike Nicol** also in the bug area.

The Regional Forest Agreement projects are due for completion in June so **Phil Papas** (when he's not attending conferences and workshops), **Diane Crowther, Ruth Lennie** and **Matthew Jones** have been sampling like mad for bugs in Gippsland and the western half of the state. **Justin O'Connor** and **John Mahoney** are doing the same for fish.

Ben Kefford is examining the effects of a sewage treatment plant on the Yarra River, the impact of a freeway on a metropolitan creek and saline water in the Barwon River in western Victoria using macroinvertebrates. **Ben** is also involved in the RFA projects.

Environmental flows work continues to pour in (pardon the pun), **Brenton Zampatti and Jason Lieschke** are handling projects in this area. They are also looking at the effects of dam desilting on the two-spined blackfish.

Pam Clunie is preparing recovery plans for silver perch and freshwater catfish within the Murray-Darling Basin. Both species have undergone significant decline in abundance and distribution. The

project involves collating existing biological information, assessing threats to their survival and determining appropriate management actions for their recovery. A limited amount of research has been undertaken including the development of radiotracking techniques and monitoring a breeding population of freshwater catfish in a Victorian lake.

Alicia Lucas, Simon Nicol and **John Koehn** are working on a national river rehabilitation framework which was presented as a poster at the Second Australian Stream Management Conference in Adelaide which was attended by five freshwater ecology staff.

By **Phil Papas.**

ANOTHER MEDIA RELEASE FROM FASTS.

PLEASE NOTE EMBARGO 1 AM WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20.

Copies of the biotechnology paper are available from Toss Gascoigne at FASTS by overnight bag, or the FASTS' web site: http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/fasts/

PM URGED TO BE A "BIOTECH TRAGIC"

EMBARGOED 1 AM WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20

Australia's peak council for scientists and technologists today (Wednesday) invited the Prime Minister to match his interest in cricket with an equivalent interest in biotechnology.

The Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) said that the potential community rewards in biotechnology were huge, but warned that recent large levels of investment overseas into biotechnology by several countries posed a threat and a challenge to Australia.

Professor Peter Cullen, President of FASTS, said that Australia risked becoming irrelevant to the 21st century. He was releasing a FASTS' position paper "Biotechnology in Australia".

"We've seen massive new investments in research as governments and research organisations all over the world scramble to capture the benefits of biotechnology," he said.

The position paper recommends a minimum new investment of $500 million per year into biotechnology, and suggests the superannuation funds as a possible source.

"But while the benefits of supporting biotechnology will be felt throughout the community, we also have to recognise community unease about possible adverse side-effects," Professor Cullen said.

"Widespread community consultation is vital, so Australia can reach a consensus position on the degree of legislative protection we need in this area."

Dr Peter French, FASTS' Board member and author of the paper, says Australia has many advantages when it comes to biotechnology.

"We have an outstanding research record, a well-organised research sector, access to expanding markets and an fledgling industry that has been very profitable for the investors.

"Biotechnology stocks only represent one per cent of the market (compared to ten per cent in the US), but investors have done well.

"Over the last two years the biotechnology sector has performed well, with a sector return of twice that of the all-Ordinaries Index," he said.

Picture opportunities: Dr French with biotechnology equipment is available in the Sternberg Laboratory, Centre for Immunology at St Vincent's Hospital.

The Centre is on the corner of West and Boundary Streets, Darlinghurst. Entry via the door on West Street.

Copies of the paper are available from Toss Gascoigne at FASTS by overnight bag, or the FASTS' web site: http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/fasts/

(1) PRESENTATION SKILLS WORKSHOP -DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR SCIENTISTS

LEARN HOW TO MAKE A TALK WORK FOR YOU AND THE AUDIENCE

"The highlight was seeing myself on video - seeing how I appear to others" (Adelaide scientist, February 1998) "Having to do lots of practice talks was a great help and I actually started to enjoy doing them" (Melbourne scientist, March 1998) "The course was extremely relevant and useful. I learnt more in the last 2 days than I have in the past 3 years about presentations" (Darwin PhD student, April 1998) "I really liked the facilitators ability to get us to get up and speak without any negative judgements from them. It was all very constructive" (Townsville researcher, July 1998)

This practical two-day Workshop teaches you to: give presentations with confidence structure talks in a logical way better understand your audience present with style handle the unexpected question use visual aids to add impact

The aim of the Presentation Skills Workshop is to help participants to communicate their message effectively to a range of audiences.

This two-day Workshop is very practical and includes a number of "speak on your feet" exercises with lots of tips given for personal improvement.

Participants deliver "before-and-after" five minute presentations, for individual feedback on strengths and weaknesses. These presentations are video-taped.

Specific topics include: structuring and preparing an effective presentation framing the message overcoming nerves using body language, voice and gestures analysing the audience making the best use of audio-visual aids dealing with questions

We run scheduled workshops (see back page for dates) in most capital cities of Australia. However, we also run workshops that are specifically designed for organisations or groups of people with a similar need. For our scheduled workshops, the cost is $545/participant. The cost of other workshops should be negotiated directly with Econnect. All our workshops include: comprehensive notes take away video tape of personal presentations individual feedback on presentations lunch and other refreshments (at scheduled workshops only) Group size is strictly limited to allow participants maximum practical experience.

The Workshop generally runs from 9.00 am until 5.00 pm on both days.

The Land and Water Resources R&D Corporation will provide support for scientists working on their projects to attend these Workshops. Contact the Workshop organisers or Glenn Conroy,

Phone: 02 6257 3379, Fax: 02 6257 3420, email: glenn@lwrrdc.gov.au for more information. Other R&D Corporations may also offer financial support.

The presenters Toss Gascoigne and Jenni Metcalfe have backgrounds in journalism, science communication and education. They work in close daily contact with scientists and have been running these Workshops for seven years across Australia.

Exclusively for scientists and those involved in science Econnect only runs Workshops for scientists, technologists and those involved in research or resource management. Our Workshops are especially tailored for these groups of people.

Other Workshops Special Workshops can also be designed and conducted for organisations or groups. These include intensive Workshops for smaller groups, one-day Workshops, or combined Media and Presentation Skills Workshops. Discuss your needs with us.
Two-day Media Skills Workshops are also offered for scientists seeking to use the media to communicate their science. Ask for a copy of the Media Skills brochure.

For further information contact:
Jenni Metcalfe
ECONNECT
PO Box 734
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Fax (07) 3846 7144
E-mail jenni@econnect.com.au

Registration form:
Please fax, post or email to Jenni Metcalfe at least two weeks before the commencement date of the Workshop. You can also register directly by using Econnect's WWW home page: http://www.econnect.com.au

Yes, I would like to attend the Presentation Skills Workshop to be held in:
[city] _____ on [date] _____, 1999.

Name (include title, first name and surname):
Organisation:
Postal Address:

Phone: Fax:
Email:
Cost: $545 per participant for a two-day Workshop

Further details of the Workshop will be sent to you when you register.
Back page, middle:
SCHEDULED Presentation Skills Workshop Dates - 1999
Melbourne
Thursday-Friday - March 4-5
Adelaide
Monday-Tuesday, March 22-23
Canberra
Monday - Tuesday, April 12-13
Sydney

Monday - Tuesday, June 21-22
Brisbane
Monday - Tuesday, September 13-14
Perth
October - Date to be confirmed (please notify organisers as soon as possible if you're interested in this workshop)

Please note numbers are strictly limited to allow all participants maximum practical experience. Register early to ensure your place.

We run most of our Workshops under special arrangement with specific groups or organisations. If these dates or locations do not suit, please discuss your needs with the presenters.

Learn how to make a talk work for you and the audience.

(2) MEDIA SKILLS WORKSHOPS - DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR SCIENTISTS

LEARN HOW TO MAKE THE MEDIA WORK FOR YOU

"Meeting real journalists and having practice interviews with constructive follow-up was great" (Melbourne scientist, November 1998) "I found it very useful to hear the concepts behind how the media works and how to go about planning and acting out a media event" (Townsville scientist, October 1998) "I thought the workshop was excellent, containing highly practical information for the scientists who participated. I compliment you on the balance between formal sessions and the practical sessions and on your accompanying notes, which I found most informative" (Melbourne scientist, August 1998) "A highlight was the exposure to interviews in a non-threatening environment" (Brisbane scientist, August 1998) "It was good to understand the various requirements of the media and how to tailor the message appropriately" (Postdoctoral CRC student, July 1998) "The highlight for me was being able to talk to working journalists and see them as people not to be feared" (Canberra scientist, June 1998)

This practical two-day Workshop teaches you to: give your message to the media with confidence . practice your interview technique with working journalists . get your message out as accurately as possible.

The aim of the Media Skills Workshop is to help scientists to feel comfortable with the media and to control their media appearances.

This two-day Workshop is highly practical and brings in working journalists from television, radio and newspapers. Improve your interview skills through practice sessions in front of the camera and microphone. Work with journalists to shape your story ideas into a format to interest media.

Specific topics include:

- answering questions from television, radio and newspaper journalists'
- turning good science into good media
- making the big announcement
- knowing what to do when a journalist knocks on your door
- emphasising the important message
- handling the difficult questions
- organising a good media release

We run scheduled workshops (see back page for dates) in most capital cities of Australia. However, we also run workshops that are specifically designed for organisations or groups of people with a similar need. For our scheduled workshops, the cost is $545/participant. The cost of other workshops should be negotiated directly with Econnect. All our workshops include:

- comprehensive notes
- take away video tape of all television interviews
- take away audio tape of all radio interviews
- individual feedback on interview technique
- lunch and other refreshments (at scheduled workshops only)

Group size is strictly limited to allow participants maximum practical experience.

The Workshop runs from 9.00 am until 5.00 pm on both days.

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AUSTRALIA'S PEAK COUNCIL FOR SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTSRELEASED ITS "TEN TOP" ISSUES FOR 1999.

Professor Peter Cullen, President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), said the list this year was dominated by two issues: funding university science, and commercialising the best ideas of Australian scientists and technologists.

"I want to propose a New Year's Resolution to the Government: that they resolve to sort out the mess in our universities before it is too late," he said.

"The universities are slowly being squeezed to death, and the quality of Australian science is being affected by increasing workloads and a failure to renew equipment and laboratories."

Professor Cullen said that Australians needed to view public support for R&D as an investment rather than a drain on the public purse, and pointed to massive boosts to research budgets by the Governments of the USA and Britain.

"These Governments have taken a hard-headed look at the benefits - new industries, new well-paid jobs, a better quality of life through technological advances. They have done their sums and can see that the investment pays off," he said.

He said he would write to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources early in the New Year, asking him to bring together all the cost-benefit analyses of R&D in Australia.

"There are a number of studies showing how in investment in R&D pays off, but they all use a different approach. If we can establish a common methodology we can assemble a cast-iron case showing that the high-technology, high-salary path is possible for Australia," he said.

Professor Cullen said the Wills Report on Health and Medical Research earlier this month picked up a number of these issues.

"We support the recommendations Wills makes, in particular his support for a peer-reviewed competitive system as a means of selecting which research projects will be funded," he said.

"Wills also emphasises to need to commercialise Australian science and technology, and his report is part of a growing groundswell of support for commercialisation.

"Industry, Government and science groups increasingly recognise they have a common interest in translating our clever science into commercial reality. The mindset has to be right, and so do the taxation and policy settings."

Professor Cullen said industry and research groups were still learning to work with each other on commercialising S&T, and that there was a degree of "culture shock" on both sides which was steadily being overcome as the Australian experience matured.

FASTS TEN TOP POLICIES FOR 1999

1. UNIVERSITIES AT THE CROSSROADS

FASTS urges the Government to restore stability in the higher education sector through realistic annual salary indexation to help meet negotiated salary increases, and through realistic annual indexation of infrastructure costs that recognises the impact of the exchange rate on library acquisitions, information technology and purchases of major equipment.

2. PEER-REVIEW FUNDING: THE BEST WAY TO GO

Australia must retain a nation-wide competitive, peer-reviewed process as part of a plurality of research funding mechanisms. The ARC should be independent like the NH&MRC, and its budget increased to allow more top-ranked science projects to be funded.

3. INCENTIVES FOR SCIENCE AND MATHS TEACHERS

The shortage in qualified teachers of science and mathematics will worsen unless good quality graduates are attracted to the profession by incentive schemes such as delayed or reduced HECS repayments. Universities need incentives to provide extra teacher-training positions.

4. SCIENCE IN THE BUSH

S&T can help create new jobs in regional Australia in industries such as aquaculture, wine-making and biotechnology as well as coping with salinity and other environmental issues. These matters need an "all-of-government" approach, with the active participation of regional governments.

5. AUSTRALIA: AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO INVEST

FASTS urges the Government to introduce internationally competitive R&D tax concessions and capital gains taxes. These would support our highly skilled work-force and the relatively low cost of research to make Australia a very attractive place in which to invest in science and technology.

6. KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

Government support for R&D should be viewed as an investment rather than a drain on the public purse. Both Britain and America have sharply increased their spending on research, and Australia should follow this lead by investing in our future prosperity through increased funding for R&D.

7. INVESTING IN AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH

FASTS applauds the major recommendations of the Wills Review into Health and Medical Research, and urges government, research and industry to work together to implement its recommendations to improve the delivery of health and medical research in Australia.

8. SCIENTISTS THINKING COMMERCIALLY

Universities and research agencies should offer real incentives and encouragement to scientists to commercialise their work. Commercial activities should be recognised as a valid professional activity in promotion and appointments, and existing training and assistance programs improved.

9. THE BENEFITS OF BEING INTERNATIONAL

The Government is urged to build Australia's international science links by investing in reciprocal projects such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, and capturing potential flow-on benefits in emerging technologies such as biotechnology and information sciences.

10. LANDMARK PROJECTS TO MARK 2001

FASTS invites the Government to capture the imagination of all Australians with landmark S&T-based projects to mark the Year 2001. These projects should create high-quality employment opportunities, and could include national research investment in Australia's Ocean Territory.

2B OR NOT 2B ASL, OR MAYBE JUST ASS

The following deluge hit the ASL newsgroup a few weeks before the newsletter went to press. Given that the debate concerns everybody who is a member each message is repeated here is chronological order (without all that header rubbish and miles of signatures). The only other debate that has hit the newsgroup with this magnitude was about whether the newsletter should go electronic or not. To paraphrase Leon Barmuta (concerning the last debate) we don't give a toss if science in Australia gets shackled/downtrodden/torn apart etc. but we (i.e. ASL members) get really riled if our precious organisation is touched in anyway.

There are currently only 237 members out of 610 who are listed on the listserver for the newsgroup. Just think YOU (that's directed at the 373 nonsubscribers) probably missed out on this blow by blow account of the debate and did not manage to get a word in just because YOU have not subscribed to the newsgroup. I have included an article in this issue about easy (& free) ways to get onto the newsgroup, or any other newsgroups that may take your interest, for those with no immediate access to a computer or the internet.

Hang on to your newsletter, here we go! (ED).

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 21:56:18 +0930 by **Max Finlayson**

At the Albury ASL Congress we briefly discussed changing the name of ASL. This was done under the context of the Futures Doc which has since been updated and published - available at the Ivory Rocks Congress in 1998 and hopefully posted out (can anyone confirm the latter?).

My memory was that not only was there little opposition, but there seemed to be support for such a change. Reasons seemed to stem from acceptance that there was a general ignorance (beyond our scientific cliches) of limnology in the wider community.

So, what about a change in time for the NZ congress in late 1999? Any suggestions? Can we request our Executive to come up with recommendations for the 1999 Congress? Or if this forum is seen as unrepresentative of the broader membership, a postal ballot even.

But first some alternatives. And merry Xmas to ASLers.

Date sent: Fri, 12 Feb 1999 18:27:23 +0930 by **Max Finlayson**

Only two responses to my comment about a reassessment of our name.

One from a museum and one from a consultant, formerly an academic. And thanks to both for some further views/ideas to toy with. And I hasten to add that I do remember the days of winkler titrations and even those of ammonia distillations and perchloric digestions. Yes, this was not aquatic biology. And I also recall days of bathymetric depth soundings with weighted cords, and secchi disc measurements. And, yes this was also not aquatic biology. But it was (and still is) aquatic science.

Now the point about accuracy when referring to our name. The Macquarie Dictionary gives us the following -

"- limnology; the scientific study of bodies of freshwater, as lakes and ponds, with reference to their physical, geographical , biological and other features."

But we can also refer to the limnological text that I used in the 70s - Bayly and Williams 1973 quote Welch 1935

"that branch of science which deals with biological productivity of inland waters and with all the causal influences which determine it"

And we can move onto Wetzel (1983 edition) - "...limnology is the study of the functional relationships and productivity of freshwater communities as they are affected by their physical, chemical and biotic environment."

And there could be more definitions lurking out there. And we could then ascertain whether or not we are a real limnological society. I wonder where estuaries fit into this picture? And mangroves? And what ilk of scientist would study the biota that move between these habitats? And haven't we heard more and more calls for science to be demonstrably relevant to real problems within integrated or holistic frameworks?

This begs a further question - is limnology relevant to the community who manage and own and use our aquatic resources? It could (should) be if they knew what it was! Our Society recently recognised that we needed an image and a charter and needed to also to be more engaged in community environmental debate. We have started this and a number of individuals need hearty congratulations for their support and effort in producing various documents and even broadening the scope of the former Hilary Jolly Award.

One important shift for some 'limnologists" is that they are now required to actively engage the broader community with their scientific endeavour. And by this I do not refer to the tokenistic 'communication events' that seem to characterise some of our recent governmental funding programs. I refer to supplying relevant information to the managers of our valued aquatic resources. I refer also to having valid community input to our project management committees and the like. I also refer to the harder one - allowing community representatives to determine what projects we should undertake and what funding we should receive. This is a long way from the world of academia and pursuit of limnological knowledge. But it is not far from the paradigm shift caused by the NHT, as an example.

In fact, does "limnology" as a term even feature in this 'community-driven' world. Perhaps "Aquatic Science" does.

Rather than offer an alternative and (in my opinion) needed new name for the Society I would sooner seek opinions on the importance of ASL and ASL-members communicating with our 'fellow human beings', as part of professional employment and careers. How far should we as members of a 'long-established' scientific society engage with our constituents (taking these to mean the owners, managers and users of our aquatic resources, whether saline or fresh)? Or should we simply embrace the entertaining and informal annual congress with its 'traditional' events and leave the rest .....and keep the old name ?????

Date: Mon, 15 Feb 1999 09:11:55 +1100 by **Paul Humphries**

The name is important for any organisation. But the profile is far more important! If an organisation can generate credibility and a high profile and maintain them in the eyes of the public, politicians and the professional community, then that is all important. Do people really think that constant name changing that goes on in government departments with changes of party really make a difference?

This is a similar issue to journal names. The profile and credibility of 'Nature' means that it doesn't have to change its name to 'DNA Studies' or whatever to maintain its place as one of the most important journals in the world.

I believe that we should keep the name and work on the profile etc.

Date: Mon, 15 Feb 1999 09:59:11 +1100 By **Frederick Bouckaert**

I would agree with Paul Humphries that changing the name is not going to change the profile of ASL. Working at changing our profile is thus as important as any name change. However, in the light of a more open communication with the wider community the term "limnology' sounds very obscure, and does not assist in people understanding who we are and what we do. I like Max's suggestion to change our name to Aquatic Scientists.

Although confusion may arise over whether this includes the marine sciences as well, at least it includes estuaries and mangroves, which limnology, according to the various definitions, does not. It is also a much more 'user friendly' definition (for the non-scientist) than ASL.

Date: Wed, 17 Feb 1999 14:21:45 +0800 by **Jenny Davis**

Does anyone else like the sound of Rivers, Wetlands and Estuaries Society ?

Date: Wed, 17 Feb 1999 17:48:14 GMT+1000 by **Ben Wilson**

Could be Society for Estuaries, Wetlands And Rivers, and allowing a little license with the spelling, could have the acronym SEWARs. Somewhat appropriate, possibly???

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 09:52:52 +1100 **by Belinda Robson**

What I like about the term limnology is that it signifies science, and my main worry is that any new name should emphasize that we are a scientific society. While I agree that we need to broaden our horizons in terms of being involved with the community, and policy etc, our basis for this is that we are scientists - i.e. we have evidence for our views that makes them worth listening to. Some of the names that have been suggested could also represent community groups and/or conservation lobby groups, and I think that we need to distinguish ourselves from all other groups as a scientific society, to give strength and credibility to ourselves as lobbyists and also as a body representing scientists working on inland waters.

So do I have any bright ideas for a new name? Inland Water Science Association - IWSA?

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 09:54:06 +1000 by **Amit Chanan**

The thought of F. A. Forel (does anyone knows who he was??) twisting and turning in his grave, and the fact that the only platform in the country that could've made the term 'Limnology' popular is inclined towards getting rid of the term has been an extremely disturbing experience for me. I belong to the breed (if there is any) of limnologists for whom Limnology is much more than just a term. This recent debate over the name of ASL, ironically is backed up by the fact that not many people are aware of the science called 'Limnology'. If any of you is/was associated with a Church that focussed on outreach, you might be familiar with - "We are the chosen ones, we have to go out and spread the word?.". You can blame me for being unreasonable, but the way I look at this whole issue - I think we have a lot to learn from the Church.

I completely agree with the comments of Mr Paul Humphries that it is not the name, it is the profile of the organisation that we need to look a t. I also agree with the comments by Mr Max Finlayson that Limnologists are now required to actively engage with the broader community, this change from a traditional reductionistic approach towards a more holistic approach is the latest trend in the field of environmental management. If we work at our profile and look at the means of better interaction with the wider community, the option of changing name would certainly rank last. I perceive the option of changing name as opting for the lowest common denominator so that everyone can understand, and in reality whenever you go for lowest common denominator you tend to lose excellence. This could be the worst decision for the Australian Society of Limnology and the future of Limnology in the country.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 09:55:09 +1000 BY **Jane Growns**

I favour something along the lines of "Society for the Study of Inland Waters" but I realise the acronym needs some work.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 10:12:49 +0930 by **Max Finlayson**

To rejoin this debate.

Yes, profile is critical and we have started this. But I doubt that as of yet it is very effective. And definitely not engaging a large amount of (volunteer) participation.

But surely we miss something - the profile should also be built around a name that the "profile-builders" and the "profile-recipients" can grab with glee and embrace as something meaningful or warm (but not necessarily cuddly). I don't think the term "limnology" will provide this, but I would be delighted to be proven wrong.

But, another point we miss - do we want to engage the community in our existing scientific club? Many (most?) of us tend to operate from agencies and institutions that are effectively remote from the broader community. We do make forays, but when we do our scientific assessments in a catchment or for a lake or a stream, do we really sit down and talk to the community?

Some of us even attend landcare meetings etc where people regularly complain about not being consulted by the last uni or govt team that wandered through and made all sorts of recommendations that could drastically alter the life of the local people. And, back in the lab.....well..... consultation is 'forced' through various advisory panels and grant conditions.

There is no reason that I can see for changing the name unless we are committed to engaging the community and to influencing policy and funding directions. The latter will not drag us away from our scientific heritage - it should enhance our future. Hence, when we have something to say we will (could?) be listened to and our wisdom embraced.

By asking for a name change I am really asking that we take up the challenge contained in the documents produced over the past two years and present our society as a dynamic force in aquatic science. A name change could be the first significant statement that we actually do accept that life exists outside the cloistered world of science. Yes, we also want to retain past values of the society (tradition runs deep), as we develop new values and influence, and hence a new tradition for the society.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 10:15:08 +1100 by **Ben Kefford**

Lets cut this nonsense! Having worked in an organisation that seems obsessed with constant name changes, I now realise that name changes lead to little else but confusion and jokes.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 10:37:34 +1000 by **Leo Duivenvoorden**

The other night I saw a guy interviewed from the Australian Medical Association and he had a large sign up behind him with the name of his association. I immediately thought that the profile of his group was well highlighted by this interview, especially with the name continually in the background. Some points I have reflected on since then are that
1. the name "Association" might be better than "Society" (the former has a more "solid" ring to it??)
2. IF we are to change the name, we need something every body can relate to easily.
3. The abbreviation must be one that is easy to say and relatively easy to remember

Hence just now I spent a whole two minutes thinking up a suggestion: Australian Freshwater Ecology Association, abbreviated to AFEA.

Now I have heard the comments about those of us working on salt lakes and estuarine areas and would hate them all to leave us because of a name change, but I suppose I like to think that more money would flow into our collective areas if we had a better profile that was more acceptable to the general public.

Any comments?

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 10:44:01 +1100 by **Tarmo Raadik**

Full agreement with the comment from Ben Kefford. I am currently working in the Department of Constant Name Changes and the changes do nothing to help. Whilst ASL is changing for the first time and this is the difference, is there really a need? I am still unsure that there is something broken, so why do we need to fix it?

Keep it short and simple, keep is ASL.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 11:07:04 +1000 by **John Gooderham**

How about Rivers, Estuaries and Wetlands Society R.E.W.S.(pronounced roos), this gives us a sort of subliminal patriotism.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 11:36:35 +0930 by **Max Finlayson**

But am I wrong in stating that the "challenge" to the name has engendered more comment than previous requests to assist with lifting the profile?

I note the rush of volunteers for the web page manager, and the support to complete the charter and the futures doc and the two policy docs.

What do we want from ASL? What can we put in? Should we spend some of our money on doing what volunteer effort can not easily achieve? (And yes, we are getting closer to my real reason for challenging the name.)

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 08:46:48 +0800 **Kerry Trayler**

I agree with Ben and Paul's earlier comments.

If ASL has an image problem then it needs to develop a communications strategy to deal with it. The problem will not go away simply by changing the name. In fact, there is a danger that it will lose its existing profile.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 12:02:43 +1100 by **George Lukacs**

Not that long ago the ASL Executive spent some time wringing their hands over whether the Society should have a Charter or not. As the Queensland member at the time (and an advocate for the Charter), I recall one of the arguments in favour was that it would raise our profile. The adopted document was intended to be used for promotion, marketing etc but also be something on which members could pin their colours. That is, as members of ASL we define and are defined by our Charter.

We are yet to exploit this document for these purposes so it is hard to believe a simple name change would be anything but superfluous to the objectives of the Society.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 12:41:25 +1100 by **George Lukacs**

"Challenging" the Society's name has always brought a response from members. We need to start thinking of what and how ASL undertakes or should be undertaking (no pun intended) its charter. I suggest the Executive needs to develop a task list which can be actively pursued by working groups from within the membership. This will require a coordinator and I agree, perhaps it is time we think about paid part-time staff.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 13:41:10 +1100 by **Tim Doeg**

Speaking of names, I must confess to be ambivalent about the name change. I agree with Paul Humphries that the profile is far more important. ASL with a new name but the same profile would be no better off. If a good profile raising strategy were developed, the name will increase in recognition as well. But the word Limnology is ambiguous and known only to ourselves. The Key words that should be in any new name are Water, Inland, Research, Management if the aim is to get politicians and managers to recognise us better (The WIRM Society?), but that will just as easily alienate the public as ASL, who would go for a Water 'R' Us sort of name (acronym pronounced "roos" as in another suggestion). By itself, a name change is no good, but should be considered if we know exactly who we wan t to target for a higher profile - if it's everyone (managers and public), then keep the name and sell the message, if it's only managers, change the name. If it's only

the public, then a new name suitable for them will alienate managers and scientist. Sorry, no help there (I've got some more down time next week and will ponder it further).

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 14:56:45 +1000 BY **Jane Growns**

I'm just forwarding this for a chuckle. The originator requested anonymity as he/she fears retribution from offended ASL members.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 14:56:45 +1000 BY **ANON**

There's probably something more fundamental than confusion at stake. I dont know if R.Marchant has even considered the acronym for the name he has mentioned. I don't know about you, but I just couldn't keep a straight face if I had to tell someone that I was on the ASS mailing list. Imagine; ASS AGMs. Who would be a member of ASS? Imagine being introduced as the president of ASS, the vice-president of ASS, the treasurer of ASS. Imagine the jokes: There's a vacancy in the current ASS committee; does that mean there's an ASShole.
Hahahahahahahahahahahahahahahaha.
There's absolutely no doubt that, that acronym, needs some work.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 15:55:59 +1030 BY **Bill Williams**

Given that about half the inland waters in Australia are saline and that within a few years the process of salinisation will have converted most of the rest to that state, I believe it would be premature to change the name of the society to one which incorporates the word freshwater.

Date: Thu, 18 Feb 1999 17:28:05 +1100 BY **Leon Barmuta**

From the desk of the Unofficial Loose Association of Battle-Scarred Ex-Presidents of ASL.

Good to see almost nothing has changed: zillions of opinions on a name change, but few raise their paws in profitable practical participation in profile-raising.

But note the *almost*, because, thanks to the precious few, we have a chartery thingo and a policy or two. So congratulations to the present and past pressies and executive members who soldiered on through the membership's glacial indifference.

But the proposal that interests me is that we start getting serious about being taken seriously by employing people to do things. I think this is a good idea and it will probably mean increased membership fees. Given that no-one gets any kudos for doing ASL stuff voluntarily (most of us are, of course, forbidden to devote time to it by our superiors), it's time to realise the glory days of infinite voluntary largesse are over. But what would a paid person do, exactly?

If we want ASL to continue to be nothing more than a great forum to exchange ideas on science and management in limnology (= non-marine or inland waters, whatever the salinity) (and that role is just fine by me; no other society does this), then we could employ someone to run web-sites, assemble newsletters, maintain membership lists and all those other necessary tasks that academics used to be able to get their graduate students to do for free (before Universities started making unreasonable demands about theses being finished within decades of their commencement).

At the other end of the spectrum, if ASL wants to "swim with the sharks" (which could be difficult in an inland water, but nonetheless a role that would not offend this member in the slightest), we

could pay a lobbyist to campaign on our behalf over some issue deemed critical to the progress of limnology in Australia.

If we do something along the lines of the lobbyist end of the spectrum (another mixed metaphor, anyone?), then ASL will need to decide on just one or two things per year that it agitates about. How we make that decision sounds like a fun topic for a discussion, and I reckon funding to keep the **science** in limnology alive will always be top of the agenda, otherwise there won't be a membership left in a few years time.

But I daresay most would prefer to wallop on about a name change, so here's my two cents worth: we should just anticipate the overwhelming trend in Australia and rename ourselves "Society for Studying What's Left After Cotton Irrigation".

Meantime, I'm off to get liaised by some stakeholders. Have fun.

Date: Fri, 19 Feb 1999 10:54:08 +1100 BY **Paul Humphries**

While I too am concerned about the direction of ASL and feel that we, as a society, must put some heavy thought into where we want it to go, I feel that it is a little unfair of some people to directly or indirectly belittle the concern that many have with our society's name. Clearly this is a topic of interest dear to many people's hearts. Names are very important and very powerful. The right name can bring people together and the wrong name can alienate all sorts of people that we would like to include. This has been demonstrated already in this debate.

Debate on all aspects of our society should be encouraged and any hidden agendas made clear.

Date: Fri, 19 Feb 1999 12:48:52 +1100 BY **Deb Nias**

OK..time to raise the head above the parapet...

I agree with the need to raise profile so that we avoid becoming the "society for whats left after cotton irrigation". . As NSW exec member (who? I hear you say), this is particularly dear to my heart. And as noted by several people, there is a distinct lack of volunteers to help raise the profile. So I would fully support raising membership fees to employ a part-time lobbiest/co-ordinator etc. (And before I get accused of being a turncoat by my fellow postgraduate students, I voted for increased membership fees several AGMs ago when I really WAS a struggling student!). And perhaps it's time to start generating ideas about how to raise profile.

I also support a name change. My reasons for this are: 1. the membership of the society is diverse and includes many people who do not see themselves as "limnologists". Our name should at least attempt to describe the membership, and 2. the "what is limnology?" problem. Unfortunately, I get this from managers who have been in the water management game for 20 years.

At the moment, I don't have a strong preference for any of the names suggested, although Australian, Society/Association, and Aquatic all seem to be fairly representative so far!! How about Australian Society for Aquatic Scientists? But perhaps that would alienate 'non-scientists' ? Just another idea to be battered about...I think I will join Tim Doeg on the fence for awhile...

Date: Fri, 19 Feb 1999 18:48:40 +0930 From: **Max Finlayson**

Welcome back to the ASL futures debate - we can not really discuss the name without discussing the future.

There is an agenda for ASL to either run with or re-orient. Its outlined in two docs developed over the past few years by a number of people (exec members, sub-groups, individuals) and accepted by the last AGM (Charter and Future of ASL).

These docs were referred to by George Lukacs and I hope the Exec, supported by the membership can take these on board and address the key issues raised.

For me, changing the name is a critical step in the process; and a necessary first step. And, I agree, not in isolation. (And, not the biggest or most profound, but that is a point for history to adjudge.)

What next? Anyone keen on sponsoring a resolution for the next AGM? (Perhaps this could be discussed individually rather than across the network, but... And we must check the constitution.)

Regards to all aquatic science practitioners, teachers and researchers.

Date sent: Tue, 23 Feb 1999 10:28:00 +0800 from **Jenny Davis**

We shouldn't stop now: my preference is for the warmer and fuzzier Rivers, Estuaries and Wetlands Society (for the pedantic: Rivers includes streams and Wetlands everything else including lakes (fresh and saline))rather than the colder but more distinguished Society of Aquatic Scientists and we definitely need a paid part-time support person if we are serious about raising our profile.

Can we hand this over to the President and Executive to make some decisions- or at least come up with a strategy for proceeding while things are still fresh

Date: Fri, 26 Feb 1999 11:40:03 +0800 from **Pierre Horwitz**

The name issue has been referred to the executive and it will be dealt with at the next teleconference meeting in March. All previous comments about the name on the listserver have been noted. If anyone feels that issues concerning the name haven't been raised, but should be, please continue the debate. We will be listening...

Other issues and topics have emerged from the recent scrum. One of them is the "profile" of the Society, and another is a funded secretariat (ie who is going to do it all?). For the former, I think a read of ASL's Futures Document would be a good place to start. If anyone requires a copy of this please request one, or consult a past newsletter. It will eventually appear on the web site as well.

The executive will be discussing the issue of a funded secretariat at its next meeting. We welcome any comments...

——— ✕ ———

Well that about covers it up to Friday 27 February. If any thing else is debated concerning this issue on the newsgroup it will be published in the next issue of the newsletter. If the remainder of

the 350 odd members who are not subscribed to the newsgroup wish to comment on anything related to our name (or anything else for that matter) please send a letter to the Editor at the address at the back of the newsletter. Consider this, (to chuck in a bit of anarchy with no offence meant to the current executive) do you trust the current, or future, executive enough to make a rational decision about your society?

To add my own tongue (firmly) in cheek 2 cents worth, how about either the Australian National Association of Limnology or if we become more militant, the Rivers, Estuaries, Wetlands Terrorist Education Directorate.

A POSTCARD FFROM THE FREE MARKET

AN OCCASIONAL SERIES BY TIM DOEG

The reader may have inadvertently gained the impression from the last "Postcard from the Free Market" (Vol 36 #3 and 4) that life as a consultant, working alone from home, is akin to being selected as John Howard's Personality Adviser (i.e. a stint in purgatory). However, if Frank Capra was to re-make the 1946 classic film *It's a Wonderful Life*, the main character should be re-cast as a solo home-based consultant. Because, despite the fear of isolation and fear of poverty, there are many things that make the BNW (Brave New World) of consultancy well worth the effort.

1. Location, Location, Location

For the average WOPNOK (Working Partner NO Kids), working from home can be one of the great joys of life. Quiet, uninterupted, close to the coffee machine, climate controlled just the way you like. Not at all like the average office.

Consider this comparison. Wake up, have coffee, have breakfast, shower, dress, catch train/tram/bus/car, sit in traffic, walk to office, sit, get up, make coffee, sit, complain about air conditioning/heating, start work. Start to finish is about 2 hours (make it 3 if you use a car or 4 if you live in Sydney). Well, how about: wake up, have coffee, have breakfast, shower (optional), dress (optional), walk to office (3 paces), sit, start work. Just being at home gives you an extra 2-3 hours in the average day - so what would normally take 2 days in an office environment takes 1 in the home environment (see point 2 below). And that extra time can be spent on the golf course (Hint: if you play like I do, get the golf pro to write "fee for environmental tour of wetlands" on the receipt, and you can claim it as a tax deduction).

Where would you rather work?

Of course, this doesn't work if you are a WOP2K (you can work that one out) or a LAGOFONOP2K (LAzy GOod FOr NOthing .....).

2. Distractions

In a "normal" working environment, there are always distractions. The e-mail beeps and it's the latest missive from the network administrator telling you that the network will be down at 1:00 a.m. next Sunday. Now, I'm sure there are times when this is important, but open the message (3 seconds), read the message (15 seconds), decide that you will be sound asleep at the time and you don't really care (1 second), curse the network administrator (40 seconds) and close and delete the message (1 second) - that's about a minute. And then it takes about 5 minutes to get back into the swing of things ... "now, what was I doing?". And this happens about every 6 minutes - training opportunities, farewell parties, latest updates on the update to Windows NT, apologies for the problems updating to Windows NT, warnings that if you accidentally press ctrl-A while in Program X you will delete all the network files etc. Each one takes 1 minute to process and 5 minutes to recover from, just in time for the next one to arrive.

Put simply, in many working environments, it's often damn hard to get any of the actual work done. The final insult is the message reminding you that the job you were working on is due in about 5 minutes and what the hell have you been doing that it isn't on my desk on time!! For which the appropriate response is: load Program X, press ctrl-A, go to pub.

3. **Keep All The Money**

I've never understood quotes for work from consultants. Invariably, there is a cast of thousands who will contribute to the project - from project managers to scientific editors to printers to binders, even a few people who will actually do the work. And they are all charged at sometimes staggering hourly rates of pay. But talk to these people and the complaint always is that they are underpaid and overworked (see part 3 above for the solution). Delve a little deeper and the rate of pay they take home bears little resemblance to the rate of pay at which their services are quoted. Where does all the extra money go to? Well, there are Board Members, CEOs, Executive Members, Accountants, Administrators, Cleaners to be paid. And they all take a cut out of the quoted hourly rate. Such a large cut that the average consultant in a large organisation only takes home a small percentage of the quoted rate.

Now imagine if you are the entire Board, the CEO, the accountant, the administrator and the cleaner .....

Yes Frank, it's a wonderful life.

Next issue: "A Short History of Time", Charging by Postcode, and some Environmental Flow considerations

VICTORIAN CHAPTER WINTER SEMINAR SERIES

Once again Victorian members, and any other interested parties, have the opportunity to get together once a month for a series of 6 seminars. The seminars will be held at the Sir Robert Peel Hotel in Nth Melbourne, corner of Peel and Queensbury Streets, on every third Monday of the month beginning Monday the 19th of April 1999. The point of the seminar series is to give members the opportunity to get together, have a meal, a drink (or two) and listen to some recent research findings, opinions, and perspective's.

Talks begin 8:00pm, meals from 6:00pm. The program to date is as follows:

Monday 19th April 1999
Dr. Ben Gawne,
Lower River Murray Laboratory, Mildura.
Topic: Menindee Lakes.

Monday 24th May 1999
Prof. Sam Lake,
Monash University, Clayton.
Topic: Global climate change and Australian limnology.

Monday 21st June 1999
Dr Jane Doolan,
Dept. Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne.
Topic: Environmental water resource management.

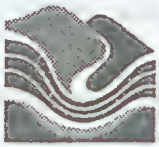
Monday 19th July 1999
Dr Barbara Downes
Melbourne University.
Topic: To be announced.

Monday 23rd August 1999
Dr Paul Boon,
Sinclair Knight and Mertz, Armadale.
Topic: Microbial Ecology in three different cultures: CSRIO, Academia, and Consulting.

Monday 20th September 1999
Dr Darren Baldwin
Murray Darling Freshwater Research Center, Albury.
Topic: Phosphorous and sediments.

For additional information contact either Ros StClair (ros.stclair@epa.vic.gov.au; 03 9628 5167) or Rhonda Butcher (rhonda.butcher@sci.monash.edu.au; 03 9905 5643)

SENIOR AQUATIC ECOLOGIST



BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION UNIT
CENTRE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
ARMIDALE

Total remuneration package valued to $68,998 p.a. including salary ($61,900 - $66,903)

Do you possess the following?:

- Expert knowledge and application of integrated natural resource management and the use of **macroinvertebrate based indicators of river health** and ecosystem function to better manage aquatic environments
- Comprehensive understanding of the principles, theories and their practical application in the area of indicator development for **defining river health and ecosystem function**
- Ability to design and **write comprehensive reports**, manuals and course materials and **effectively communicate ideas** relating to conceptual and technical issues associated with aquatic environments
- Sound knowledge of the general legislative, regulatory and policy requirements applicable to river management and river health maintenance and restoration
- Sound knowledge of **project management** principles and an ability to apply these to the work situation
- Relevant degree level tertiary qualification in science, natural resources or related discipline
- Sound knowledge of and capacity to implement EEO, OH&S policies and the Principles of Cultural Diversity
- A commitment to ethical practices

If you do and want a challenging career undertaking targeted research supporting environmental flow management and maintenance and protection of biodiversity, then please contact Dr Bruce Chessman, Principal Aquatic Ecologist (02) 9895 7154 or Bruce Cooper, Director Ecosystem Management (02) 9895 7455.

Enquiries and applications will be accepted up until the closing date of 9 April 1999.

"FRESH SCIENCE"

ScienceNOW! is seeking nominations for: "Fresh Science 99" to be delivered daily at ScienceNOW!

ScienceNOW! 99 will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre with the Great Australian Science Show (GASS) between 6 and 9 May. It is sponsored by the Victorian and Federal governments and backed by Australia's leading science organisations. Nominations close on 25 March 1999.

We want to identify the most exciting, unpublished research for presentation at "Fresh Science" at ScienceNOW! - the national science forum.

Now in its second year, ScienceNOW! is a series of lectures, workshops and other events held in National Science Week to bring together scientists, the media, and the public. It is designed to:

- enhance reporting of Australian science;
- highlight and encourage debate on the role of science in Australian society; and
- provide role models for the next generation of Australian scientists.

Details of the 1998 winners, their press releases, and their media coverage are available on the ScienceNOW! website. Full details including selection criteria and nomination forms are on our website at http://www.asnevents.net.au/sciencenow and mirrored at:
http://www.byc.com.au/sciencenow

For further information contact:

Niall Byrne on 03 5253 1391, fax (02) 9475 0754, e-mail: niall@byc.com.au or
Tim Thwaites on 03 9383 2695, e-mail: timt@werple.net.au

IDENTIFYING AND PROTECTING RIVERS OF HIGH ECOLOGICAL VALUE

I am undertaking a LWRRDC funded consultancy on **Identifying and Protecting Rivers of High Ecological Value**. This project is funded through the River Restoration and Management program of LWRRDC.

The main focus of the project is to develop a protocol or approaches which can be applied nationally to identify rivers of high ecological value. The term 'rivers' is taken to include river sections and floodplains. Ecological value will be taken broadly for example to include aspects of geomorphology and riparian features. A river may have some degree of human modification and yet have high ecological value.

The purpose of the project is to develop a general framework for identification along with suggestions for protection which would be useful for river managers. These outcomes could also be a step towards a conservation strategy for Australian river systems.

The project will draw on approaches developed in other countries but it will need to reflect the diversity of Australian river systems.

I am undertaking a survey of scientists and river managers to collect opinions and ideas from people with a wide range of expertise and from different geographic areas. The survey seeks ratings of possible attributes of rivers of 'high ecological value' and responses to possible measures for protection.

I would like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to the project by completing the survey. The more responses to the survey, the more likely we will be to develop a useful and inclusive protocol which is nationally applicable.

The survey will preferably be sent to you via email and can be completed electronically (no postage stamp required!). It will take about 20 – 25 minutes to complete. The closing date for the completed surveys will be about the end of April.

Please contact me at

Helen Dunn
Helen.Dunn@utas.edu.au
or
School of Geography and Environmental Studies
University of Tasmania
GPO Box 252- 78
HOBART TAS 7001
Ph (03) 62261747
Fax: (03) 6226 2989

GLOBAL REVIEW OF WETLAND RESOURCES AND PRIORITIES FOR WETLAND INVENTORY

SUMMARY REPORT

C.M. Finlayson[1,2] & N.C. Davidson[3]
(collators)

February 1999

[1] Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist, Jabiru, Australia
[2] Wetlands International Wetland Inventory and Monitoring Specialist Group
[3] International Co-ordination Unit, Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Report to the Ramsar Bureau from Wetlands International & the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist, Australia

Ramsar Bureau Contract No. 56

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This review was undertaken by Wetlands International and the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist, Australia under contract to the Bureau of the Ramsar Wetlands Convention and with financial support from the United Kingdom. It was undertaken by a team that included personnel based in Australia, Canada, Malaysia and the Netherlands with support from colleagues spread around the globe and an international steering committee. The European team was also supported by project funding from RIZA from the Netherlands and NORAD from Norway. This summary was taken from the material supplied by this collective group. Individual reports and databases prepared for each of the Ramsar global regions will be published separately in hardcopy and CD-ROM formats.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary is based on reviews of the extent of wetland inventory in each Ramsar region. These were supplemented by a review of regional and international wetland inventories. Standardised data collation and recording formats were used in each of the reviews.

It is important to note that these reviews were limited by available funds and time, and that further effort will unearth more information.

It was not possible to make reliable overall estimates of the size of the wetland resource globally or regionally. Some good examples of wetland inventory processes exist (e.g. the MedWet program), but many inventories allowed only a cursory assessment of the extent of wetland area or condition. Whilst not undermining the value of individual inventories, this highlights wetland inventory as being incomplete and difficult to undertake.

Recommendations are made to improve the accuracy of quantifying and describing the wetland resource through wetland inventory, and to provide the basic information required for managing the wetland resource.

Recommendations focus on the need to conduct national inventory programmes, and the inclusion of basic information on the location and extent of each wetland and its major ecological features as a forerunner to collecting further management-oriented information.

Development of standardised methods for data collection, collation and storage are called for. These methods should address the use of relatively new techniques for collecting and interpreting remotely-sensed data; storing this in electronic formats, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS); and recording key information in a meta-database.

The key conclusion of this review is that little is still known about the extent and condition of the global wetland resource. On a regional basis only parts of North America and Western Europe have adequate past and current inventory. Without good inventory it is difficult to promote the wise use of the wetland habitats covered by the Ramsar Convention.

Priority habitats for future inventory are identified. These are seagrasses, coral reefs, salt marshes and coastal flats, mangroves, arid-zone wetlands, peatlands, rivers and streams and artificial wetlands.

The Ramsar Convention should play a pivotal role in implementing these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This review makes many critical comments on the state of global wetland inventory. In summary, global wetland inventory is incomplete and inadequate for most management purposes. From our many comments eight are recommended for priority action. These reflect the effort required to implement an effective inventory programme as the basis for wise use of the global wetland resource. Not all recommendations are, however, relevant to all geographic situations or inventory programmes,

- All countries lacking a national wetland inventory should undertake one, using an approach that is comparable with other wetland inventories and for which the Ramsar Convention should provide guidance (see below). These inventories are needed to underpin national planning, policy development and all efforts directed at wetland conservation and wise use promoted by the Ramsar Convention, and other related conventions. The inventories will assist in identifying wetlands of national and international importance, and through this to contribute to the Ramsar Convention achieving its vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar COP7 Doc. 15.11 - Proposal No.11).
- Quantitative studies of wetland loss and degradation are urgently required for much of Asia, Africa, South America, the Pacific Islands and Australia.
- Further inventory should focus on a basic data set describing the location and size of each wetland, and its major biophysical features, including variations in area and the water regime. This information should be made available in both hardcopy and electronic formats.

- After acquisition of the basic data further information oriented to management, on wetland threats and uses, land tenure and management regimes, benefits and values, should be collected. Source(s) of information should be clearly recorded along with comments on its accuracy and availability.
- Each inventory should include a clear statement of its purpose and the range of information that has been collated or collected. This extends to defining the habitats covered and the date the information was obtained or updated.
- The Ramsar Convention should support the development and dissemination of models for improved globally-applicable wetland inventory. These should be derived from existing models, for example the MedWet programme, that are capable of using both remote sensing and ground techniques, as appropriate. Models should cover appropriate habitat classifications (e.g. those based on landform categories), information collation and storage, in particular Geographic Information Systems for spatial and temporal data that can be used for monitoring purposes.
- The Ramsar Convention should support development of a central repository for both hard-copy and electronic inventories. The meta-data that describe the inventories should be published on the World Wide Web for greater accessibility.

Further support is required for completion of the global review of wetland resources and priorities for wetland inventory; and to develop procedures for regular updating and publishing of inventory information on the World Wide Web. Regular updating (e.g. in conjunction with the triennial national reporting to the Ramsar Convention) may require restructuring the format and style of the current databases and bibliographic materials supplied by this project.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TROPICAL WETLAND RESEARCH

Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist

James Cook University

Northern Territory University

University of Western Australia

SCENE SETTING

Wetlands are an important feature of the tropical landscape. They provide many values and benefits to people. However, whilst these values and benefits are increasingly recognized, they are also increasingly threatened. Wetland managers and users urgently require further information to ensure that wetlands are used in a sustainable manner. Through research and training the Centre will provide information and expertise to assist managers and users of tropical wetlands to use them in a sustainable manner.

The range of wetlands across tropical Australia is large. In line with internationally agreed concepts we include streams, floodplains, swamps, shallow lakes and lagoons, salt flats, mangroves, seagrass beds and reefs under the general label of 'wetland'. As such, wetlands are a major part of our tropical biodiversity.

The status of tropical wetlands has been reviewed over the past decade. Many are degraded and unless we implement further sound sustainable use practices we could lose them. In Australia and elsewhere the loss and degradation of wetlands has continued unabated. This is particularly the case for the temperate regions where losses of 70-80% are common. Tropical wetlands across Asia-Pacific are similarly threatened.

Scene-setting for a tropical wetland research program

Review of the conservation status of Australian wetlands - 1988

Review of wetland research needs in the wet-dry tropics – 1995

Review of the conservation status of wetlands in the Northern Territory – 1997

Review of R&D needs for wetland management in northern Australia – 1998

Review of wise use of tropical wetlands by indigenous people - 1998

STATUS OF WETLANDS

Wetlands in tropical Australia are widely distributed across an area that is sparsely populated. However, much of this land has been adversely affected by cattle grazing, weeds and feral animals. Importantly, the use and management of these wetlands is not supported by a coordinated inventory and monitoring regime. Basic information on the biology, soils and hydrology is lacking; the natural variability is not well documented; and the goods and services provided by wetlands have not been widely assessed or publicized.

Wetland management practices are being strongly affected by development pressures and a continuing push for economic return. The effect of economic and political pressures on sustainable use of wetlands is little known. At one extreme we could see the destruction of the basic resource. Or we could see the well being of local and indigenous communities who depend upon wetlands undermined. In managing wetlands we need to recognize social and cultural values alongside the traditionally recognized ecological values.

THREATS TO WETLANDS

Many of the threats to tropical wetlands have been identified. These are complex and inter-related. It is also known that there are large gaps in the information that is required for effective management of these threats. It is further known that there is disagreement as to the severity of individual threats. The latter occurs when multiple uses of wetlands clash or where non-sustainable uses occur.

THREATS TO WETLANDS IN TROPICAL AUSTRALIA

Weeds and feral animals

Water pollution, eutrophication and salinisation

Agriculture, grazing and irrigation

Climate change and sea level rise

Burning practices and changed fire regimes

Disruption of the water regime, clearance, drainage and ponding

Non-sustainable harvesting and land uses

The importance of these threats has not been subject to rigorous wetland risk assessment. Further, cost-benefit analyses have not been done as a component of research and management procedures.

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Managers and users of tropical wetlands require information on the values and benefits of wetlands and how these can be sustained. This information can be provided through strategic research directions.

The Centre will direct its research to

- describe the values and benefits derived from wetlands
- assess existing and possible threats to wetlands
- develop procedures and standards to survey and monitor wetlands
- develop procedures and standards to sustainably use and restore wetlands

The research will be supported by the training and a communications program for tropical wetlands managers and users. Specific research priorities will be determined by consultation with stakeholders, including local community groups, and dissemination of published materials.

TRAINING DIRECTIONS

Primary training needs for wetland managers, users and owners have been identified under the National Wetland Program. These encompass programs that stretch from the formal and academic to the informal and on-the-job. The Centre will provide formal training programs with formal accreditation and supplement these with specific short-courses for researchers, managers, owners and users of tropical wetlands.

Further information

Director, National Centre for Tropical Wetland Research, Locked Bag 2, Jabiru, NT 0886, Australia

(tel +61-(0)8-89799711; fax +61-(0)8-89792149; email wetlands@eriss.erin.gov.au)

FREE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW METHOD

(or a plug from the free market (ED))

One of the good things about leaving the Public Service for a life as a consultant is there are times when there is nothing (or relatively nothing) to do - to be explored further in a later Postcard From the Free Market (see earlier section –ED).; While an economic rationalist would call this ";unproductive time"; it allows the chance to ponder and contemplate issues of the day.; After some discussions with some local waterway managers, the issue of setting environmental flows started buzzing in my head.; And I may have come up with a potential solution for setting limits on diversions that protects key aspects of the whole flow regime, rather than just a minimum flow.

To this end, I have prepared a discussion paper on a potentially new approach and am willing to send it to anyone who might be interested in reading it, and providing comments or suggestions.

The basic rationale behind the method is to preserve a variety of different ecological trigger flows, not by selecting a single environmental flow to be achieved, but by selecting a range or regime of flows that are the minimum acceptable condition for flows in each the flow seasons or individual months within each season.; In this method, the set of flow pattern selected is termed the "Minimum Flow Pattern". The difference between the natural flow and the Minimum Flow Pattern is a measure of the maximum amount of water that can be extracted.; And how far the current flow pattern deviates from natural towards this Minimum Flow Pattern is a measure of how much stress the system is under due to water extraction.

Anyone interested should send me an e-mail (crowdoeg@mail.mpx.com.au) and I'll send a zipped version back soon (file size 135K - unzips to 25 page Word 6 document).; It's currently called the Cascading Seasonal Flow method, but the main question is what the method name should be and how I get the word Doeg into the title (my only claim to posterity perhaps)!

Tim Doeg

SCHOLARSHIPS TO GERMANY.

The German Embassy is offering scholarships to Germany.
Details and a contact point below.

Toss Gascoigne

I would like to inform you that the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers Research grants for 'Short Term Visits' (1 - 6 months) for Ph.D. candidates and recent Ph.D's for their dissertation or post-doctoral research (age limit 32).

The DAAD also offers 'Study Visits' for research projects in Germany for 1 - 3 months. At least 2 years post doctoral teaching experience at a university or research is necessary to be eligible.

For further information please contact the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Tel. 02/62701911.

POEA Internet Canberra <106030.2144@compuserve.com>

Yours sincerely,
Marie-Louise Cordes
Third Secretary

NEW WEB PAGE MANAGER/EDITOR

A message from El Preso (downloaded from the newsgroup).

So that I can offer you some respite from a vigorous debate about the name, please be aware that I have asked a Mr Simon Josey to be our web site manager. Simon has expressed considerable enthusiasm for the position. He currently works at ECOWISE in Sydney. We have offered to pay his membership fees as some form of honorarium for the position, and he seems happy with this.

There will be some decisions required in the future on locating the web site - so I'll seek your opinion on this and other related matters, but only after I have received some advice from Simon.

From Pierre Horwitz (the President)

WELL I AM GOING TO GIVE THREE CHEERS TO THE OUT-GOING WEB PAGE ORGANISER – MICHAEL DOUGLAS

HIP HIP-HOORAY

HIP HIP-HOORAY

HIP HIP-HOORAY

AND THREE CHEERS FOR THE INCOMING WEB PAGE ORGANISER/EDITOR/LACKEY - SIMON JOSEY

HIP HIP-HOORAY

HIP HIP-HOORAY

HIP HIP-HOORAY

For they are jolly good fellows, for they are jolly good fellows, for they are jolly good fellooooooows, and so say all of us, and so say all of us, and so say all of us, for they are jolly good fellooooooows, and so say all of us (ED)

A QUICK GUIDE TO FREE ACCESS TO THE ASL NEWSGROUP

The following is a quick and easy guide of how to get free access to the ASL newsgroup (or any other newsgroup with a bit of adlibbing). I apologise to those with no computer skills if the following guide is too technical, but with your mates or the library or their/your internet provider, help is not too far away. Hey, if you run into troubles following this stuff, give me phone call/fax, I'm willing to help.

1. Get access to a computer with internet capabilities
General strategy – bludge

Okay, you must have friends, even one. Given the latest statistics of computer ownership in Australia and the number of friends the average person has, there is a 80% chance that YOU can suggest to your mate that they would really like to receive unsolicited email from some bizarre organisation that they have never heard of and that they would be willing to print those messages out and give them to YOU. This isn't really bludging, this would be a public education exercise – your mate may never have asked you what you do for a living/in your spare time/ or what you study and so YOU tell them.

If that doesn't work public libraries have access to the Web and this leads onto No. 2

2. Free email accounts
Free email?, "Impossible" YOU say –"WRONG!" I hell. There are at least two major organisations that will give you free access to email. "Why:?" you ask. To put it politely – "Don't know" I say. The following gives instructions of how to get an account on Yahoo. I have no commercial association with Yahoo, so this is not a plug. Hotmail is the only other organisation that does free email that I know of, but there is bound to be others out there. I only know of Yahoo and Hotmail because I have received messages from people who have accounts with them. For this exercise I have set up an account with Yahoo under the name of i_growns. So if you wish to contact me on my alternate address send a message to i_growns@yahoo.com.

1. Go to the following URL (i.e. the name you type in to either Microsoft explorer or Netscape) http://mail.yahoo.com.

On the screen a few lines down there is blue writing that says "Yahoo! Mail". Click on those words.

Somewhere near the top of the next screen is the following words "I am a new user – sign me up!".

Read the service agreement and at the bottom of the agreement click the "I agree" button".

Fill in the details under the personal account info then click the submit form button.

You'll be asked to verify your password and then you get to a screen that says "Welcome to Yahoo Mail".

On the left of the screen down a little bit click on the word "Compose". This leads onto the next section.

3. Subscribe to the ASL newsgroup (this bit is free no matter where you are)
There are instructions under the current ASL web page of how to do this but in an effort to waste space I will repeat the instructions to complete this section.

In the To: bit in your composition (or any email message) type the following address Majordomo@pellew.ntu.edu.au. I don't know if the upper and lower case bits matter, but to be on the safe side, put them in.

Don't worry about putting anything in the subject heading, the listserver will ignore it anyway. But then, if your feeling particularly frustrated because you had trouble following the above notes or had trouble at Yahoo (I did), you could type in some profanity if it makes you feel better (like Yahoo and the internet suck!).

In the message bit type "subscribe asl@pellew.ntu.edu.au" without the "" bits.

Any then hit the Send message button.

To quote the web page "That's it!" If you wait a few moments you should receive some information about the list, including how to unsubscribe (not that you would,ever want to).

To send a message to the newsgroup so that everyone who had subscribed (about 240 people) gets to see it send it to asl@pellew.ntu.edu.au. Don't send it to Majordomo, you'll just get an error message saying something like "don't be so stupid, mate".

To make sure it works why not send a message introducing yourself and tell the newsgroup your interests. Believe it or not people do appreciate such messages.

CONFERENCE CAPERS

Please send information about forthcoming conferences, workshops or meetings to the editor.

AUSTRALIA 1999

- **8-10 September Flood plains – risks and rewards.** Inaugural (i.e. the first – ed) Victorian Flood Management Conference. Contact Roel von't Steen, North East CMAphone (02) 6055 6133 fax (02) 605566119 email necma@albury.net.au or Neil Watson NRE Floodplain Management Unit Phone (03) 9296 4654 fax (03)9296 4725 email: Watson@nre.vic.gov.au

- **11-19 November 1999 FishRights99 conference- Use of property rights in fisheries management.** Fremantle WA. Contact http://www.fishrights99.conf.au.

OVERSEAS 1999

- **8th International Conference on the Conservation and Management of Lakes** 17-21 May 1999, Copenhagen, Denmark
  WEB ADDRESS – www.lake99.dk.

- **Vth International Symposium on Cladocera**, Ploen, Germany, September 14-18,1999. Contact Maarten Boersma at Max-Planck Inst. f. Limnologie <cladocera@mpil-ploen.mpg.de>

FURTHER IN THE FUTURE....

- **28th International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology (SIL),** February 2001, Melbourne, Australia.

- **29th International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology (SIL),** August 2004, Helsinki, Finland.

- **IXth Int. Symposium on Rotifera**, Khon Kaen, Thailand, 16–23 January 2000. Contact La-orsri Sanoamuang at the Univ. of Khon Kaen <La_orsri@kku.ac.th>

- **Species 2000**: New Zealand (millenial symposium to inventory all N.Z.biota). Museum of N.Z., Wellington, 1-5 February 2000. Contact Dennis Gordon at NIWA <d.gordon@niwa.cri.nz>

The Inaugural Australian National Algal Workshop

Following the successes of the Australian diatom workshops, a group of attendees at one of these workshops decided to expand the subject field and organise a national algal workshop. The result was the Inaugural Australian National Algal Workshop, which was held at the Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies at the University of Adelaide, February 17 to 19.

The first indication of the likely success of the workshop was the pre-registration of approximately 70 participants. The participants' interests ranged from general phytoplankton studies to detailed diatom autecology and blue-green algal taxonomy and these interests were reflected in the 3-day programme.

The programme commenced with Professor Peter Tyler condensing his 9-week lecture course 'Introduction to the Taxonomy and Ecology of Freshwater Algae' into one day. Although attending that event required the wearing of seatbelts and crash helmets, all who experienced it had to be impressed with Peter Tyler's ability to combine a wealth of knowledge with wit, humour and insight.

Day two consisted of a brief introduction to the blue-greens (= Cyanobacteria = Cyanophyta = Cyanoprokaryotes) by Peter Tyler, followed by Larelle Fabbro presenting and discussing, *A Guide to the Identification of Common Blue-Green Algae (Cyanoprokaryotes) in Australian Waters* for the rest of the day. The guide was authored by Peter Baker and Larelle and is available through the CRCFE/MDFRC Identification Guide Series (see full reference below). It contains up-to-date keys to the orders, genera and species occurring in Australia, with 80 figures and information on each species' known ability to form blooms and toxins. As such, it provides a valuable resource for anyone involved in the management of water resources where blue-green algae are potential problems.

Day three was devoted to diatoms, again commencing with a brief introduction to the group by Peter Tyler and was followed by Peter Gell and Michael Reid presenting, *An Illustrated Key to Common Diatom Genera from Southern Australia*. The key has 64 figures and generalised ecological information for each of the 57 genera covered. It is the first in a series of documents aiming to provide readily interpretable keys to the species of common Australian freshwater diatoms, as well as detailed information on their use as indicators of nutrient, pH and salinity status of waterbodies. Since many of the participants were 'interested but inexperienced' in diatom taxonomy, a key to the genera was much needed and very well received.

The general response of the participants to the workshop was extremely enthusiastic and my opinion is that it was an overwhelming success. Most participants made valuable contacts, gained knowledge relevant to their specialist field, learnt about corollary fields and enjoyed the informal (though intense) learning atmosphere. A second National Algal Workshop is planned at the same venue, with tentative dates being 26-28 April 2000. Although the structure and content of the next workshop is largely dependent upon feedback from participants at the first, there will be a launching of a diatom iconograph with keys and detailed ecological information to the 100 (or more) most commonly found taxa in temperate Australia. There is also expected to be further sessions on blue-green taxonomy, ecology and management.

References

The references given below can be purchased from the CRCFE/MDFRC, P.O. Box 921, Albury 2640 (phone 02 6058 2300). At the workshop, the authors expressed their sincere gratitude to John Hawking for the time and effort he contributed to the production of the guides.

Baker, P and Fabbro, L. (1999). *A Guide to the Identification of Common Blue-Green Algae (Cyanoprokaryotes) in Australian Waters.* Identification Guide No. 25, CRCFE/MDFRC Identification Guide Series, CRCFE, Thurgoona, NSW.

Gell, P., Sonneman, J., Reid, M., Illman, M. and Sincock, A. (1999). *An Illustrated Key to Common Diatom Genera from Southern Australia.* Identification Guide No. 26, CRCFE/MDFRC Identification Guide Series, CRCFE, Thurgoona, NSW.

Peter Newall

CRCFE

Freshwater Sciences

Environment Protection Authority (Victoria)

SEMINAR

On 24 November, approximately 70 people attended a seminar presented by Professor Charles Goldman (Professor of Limnology and Director of the Tahoe Research Group, University of California) at the MDFRC. Professor Goldman spoke on *"A global view of emerging water quality problems for the next century"*, and attendees came from DLWC, DNRE, water authorities, local government, landcare groups, catchment management authorities, TAFE, universities and private industry.

Check out the new CRC for Freshwater Ecology's home page at http://freshwater.canberra.edu.au which was launched at the CRC's Board meeting on 3 December. Through the Freshwater explorer pages you can find out about the type of issues the CRC deals with and the latest knowledge available on those issues. These pages will take you from a broad overview down to the specific research projects that the CRC is working on.

The CRCFE has been advised that its interview for funding under the Cooperative Research Centres Program will be conducted at the University of Canberra on Friday 5 March. The interview panel consists of:

Professor Graeme Kelleher - Co-Chair of Life Sciences Panel for CRC Selection. Chair of CRCFE Five Year Review panel. Previously Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Dr John Keniry, Chair of Ridley Corporation (stock food), Member Prime Ministers Science, Engineering & Innovation Council. Previously Exec. Director Goodman Fielder.

Dr Jim Miller, Consultant, formerly Chair Abattoir Corporation Qld. Chair of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and previously Director of Agriculture.

Dr Wendy Craik, Chief Executive of the National Farmers Federation.

11TH TAXONOMIC WORKSHOP

The 11th Taxonomic Workshop was held at the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre from the 2nd - 4th February 1999. 120 people attended the taxonomic presentations. The workshop was opened by Dr Rod Oliver (CRCFE/MDFRC) who spoke on the need for the dissemination of taxonomic research through workshops, as the taxonomic resolution determines the level at which ecological research can be undertaken.

John Dean (EPA, Vic) presented the first morning session on the "Identification of hydropsychid caddisfly larvae" and Phil Suter (La Trobe University) the second session on the "Identification of caenid mayfly nymphs". The afternoon session was on the "Identification of elmid beetle larvae" presented by Alena Glaister (CRCFE/Monash Univ.) and the day finished with an evening barbecue in the MDFRC courtyard.

The second day was only two sessions, John Dean (EPA, Vic) with the "Identification of leptophlebiid mayfly nymphs" in the morning and Gunther Theischinger (EPA, NSW) and John Hawking (CRCFE/MDFRC) in the afternoon with the "Identification of Odonata larvae and the new phylogenetic revision". After the mayfly and dragonfly talks, many of the participants enjoyed the evening meal and social activities at Mugsy Malones - a gangster style restaurant in Albury.

The crustaceans dominated the final day. The first session of the morning was the "Identification of amphipod crustaceans" presented by John Bradbury (Adelaide University), following morning tea, Buz Wilson and Steve Keeble (both from the Australian Museum, Sydney) presented an "Interactive and dichotomous keys to the phreatoicid crustaceans". After lunch, Jackie Griggs (CRCFE/La Trobe University) presented the "Identification of chydorid crustaceans". Three speaker gave short addresses in the final session: Kyla Finlay presented a short talk on rearing mayfly nymphs, then John Hawking (CRCFE/MDFRC) handed out a list of new taxonomic references to update his (1994) "Key to identification keys" and Edward Tsyrlin (Monash Univ./CRCFE) finish the session with a presentation on his new key to *Leptoperla* stonefly nymphs.

Five identification guides were presented at the workshop:

No. 20 Preliminary keys for the identification of Australian mayfly nymphs of the family Leptophlebiidae. John C. Dean, 1999.
No. 21 Guide to the identification of Australian Elmidae larvae (Insecta: Coleoptera). Alena Glaister, 1999.
No. 22 Preliminary keys for the identification of Australian Trichoptera larvae of the family Hydropsychidae. John C. Dean, 1999.

No. 23 Illustrated key to the Australian caenid nymphs (Ephemeroptera: Caenidae). Phillip J. Suter, 1999.

No. 24 Dragonfly Larvae (Odonata). A guide to the identification of larvae of Australian families and to the identification and ecology of larvae from New South Wales. John H. Hawking and Gunther Theischinger, 1999.

The **Identification Guides** can be purchased from the CRCFE/MDFRC, P.O. Box 921, Albury, 2640 **phone:** (02) 6058 2300 or **fax:** (02) 6043 1626.

Identification guides 25 & 26 were launched at the Inaugural Australian National Algal Workshop, University of Adelaide, SA (17th to 19th February 1999).

No. 25 A guide to the identification of common blue-green algae (cyanoprokaryotes) in Australian freshwaters. By Peter D. Baker & Larelle D.Fabbro, 1999

$35.00 ☆ $39.00 ✉

No. 26 An illustrated key to common diatom genera from southern Australia. By Peter Gell, Marie Illman, Jason Sonneman, Adam Sincock, Michael Reid, John Tibby, Jennie Fluin, Peter Newall & Nina Bate, 1999

$28.00 ☆ $32.00 ✉

BOOK REVIEW

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BIRDS: A COMPREHENSIVE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE BY INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS, consultant editor Joseph Forshaw, illustrated by Dr David Kirshner. UNSW Press Ltd, Sydney, 1998, 2nd edition. 240 pp. $49.95rrp.

To write about birds worldwide in 240 pages is a big ask and yet this book manages to include large amounts of information in an accessible format and a totally readable style. The Foreword indicates that the aim of the publication is to increase public interest in and understanding of birds, with a view to reversing the threatening processes that are affecting the survival of many bird species. The content and format of the book go a long way to fulfilling this main aim.

The book's structure is simple; after a brief introduction dealing with classification, history, behaviour and adaptations, the majority of the space is given over to descriptions about taxonomic groupings of birds. With only a few pages on subjects such as 'bird behaviour' the treatment is necessarily brief and generalised, so the book's claim in its title to being a 'comprehensive guide' is somewhat exaggerated. Nevertheless these chapters do provide an overview of the subjects and well-chosen examples give a flavour of the complexities and variety of birdlife.

The main body of the book - the descriptions of taxonomic groups -manages to impart a deal of information but in an interesting and chatty style. The format is similar for all groups, with the first page containing a distributional map and a coloured box giving 'Key Facts' about the group. These facts include the order name, suborder where appropriate, numbers of families, genera and species within the order, the smallest and largest birds in the group and the numbers of threatened species worldwide. This conservation information is based on the *1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*, which recognises three levels of risk - critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable. I found this section one of the most enlightening (and worrying) facets of the publication - as pointed out in the foreword, one in every nine bird species is threatened with extinction!

Quality drawings and photographs are liberally sprinkled throughout the text and the accompanying captions generally add significant information about the species illustrated and sometimes the group in general. There are a few stunning full-page and double-page photographs, like that of a breeding colony of Cape gannets on pages 44 and 45. I was unable to find any examples of miscaptioning or misidentifications of birds, which makes a welcome change. The illustrations are also well placed, in that they do not interfere with the natural progression of the flow of the text, while still providing visual 'relief'. Production standard is good, with an attractive jacket, quality paper and realistic colour in the reproduction of photographs.

The standard of editing is high, particularly as many authors have made a contribution and yet the style is fairly consistent. Thus the publication benefits from chapters being written by experts on specific groups of birds, while retaining a uniformity of presentation and tone. There is a bias towards Australian birds, particularly in the choice of photographs, but this is probably to be expected in a book published in Australia and where almost half the chapters have been contributed by Australians.

A word of warning - this is not a field guide and clearly makes no claims to be one. There are about 9,000 species of birds in the world, so one book could not encompass them all.

Book reviewers generally make a recommendation about who might be likely to use the book. As an ornithologist, I found it interesting and informative, but I would be unlikely to use it frequently in the course of my professional work, because of its general nature. This led me to muse about who would use such a book and I decided that secondary and tertiary students, as well as researchers in museums and government conservation agencies, would be the most likely candidates. However the attractive presentation, readable text and lack of jargon make it easily accessible to anyone interested in the world of birds and in ensuring that we reverse the alarming trends in the decline of so many bird populations.

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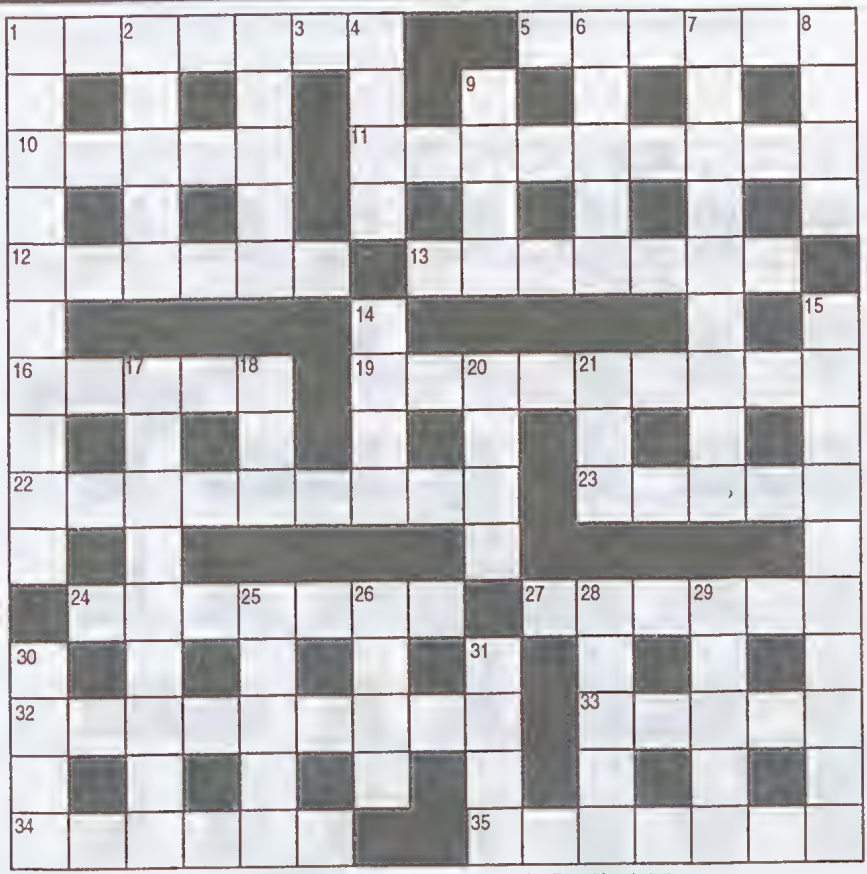
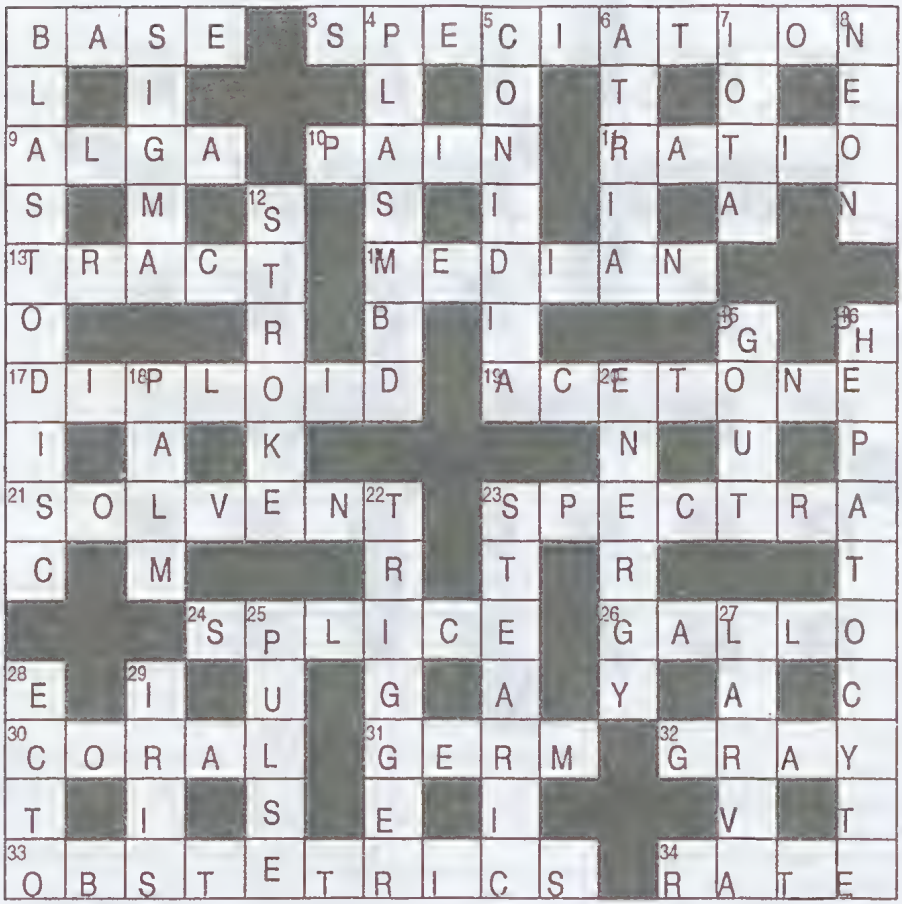
THE XX WORD



ACROSS
1 Compound with a positive Ames test
5 Electromagnetic energy quantum
10 Nut case
11 Structure appearing during mitosis
12 Vitamin with an RDA
13 Taxonomic kingdom
16 Curie who won two Nobel Prizes
19 Secreting into the blood or lymph
22 AIDS screening component
23 Taxonomic kingdom
24 Physical
27 Element after iron
32 Inject to increase immunity
33 Element after beryllium
34 Canine covering
35 Simplest alkane

DOWN
1 Atomic weight, roughly
2 Greek's eighth
3 Cell apparatus
4 Head-trunk connection
6 ____ Genome Project
7 Solution-strength determining process
8 Knotty, localized swelling
9 Organic radical
14 Blood's red
15 Ability to ward off disease
17 Protozoa phylum
18 Prefix for quintillion
20 Raw facts
21 Liquid surrounding the brain: abbr.
25 Opposite of chronic
26 Physiologist Pavlov
28 Eye socket
29 Main artery
30 Liver secretion
31 Sterilizing target

SOLUTION TO LAST NEWSLETTER'S X WORD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